

10: Schumacher--226 [3] T-1
116, 171, 174, 412

(ca. 1896) 1898

Formosans

Several of the objects which I brought down from the mountains were thought to be old Chinese things even by some of the Chinese priests. I would not let the Chinese lie to me under any circumstances and asked them for proof of their statements, and they showed me pictures of objects on old temple decorations which showed definite similarity with my originals in spite of the fact that they had been strongly affected by the weather. I am referring to bamboo rakes, a wooden sprinkler which can be used simultaneously on two rows of plants in the field, and a device for lifting a primitive lamp of clay.

Is it not possible that the inhabitants of the mountains have, in the course of time, forgotten the things that keep them from being stamped as completely Chinese in the same manner as they adopted the elements which they have in common with the Chinese? In short, why would it not be possible that these inhabitants of the mountains be Chinese who have emigrated from the Chinese mainland and come to Formosa, where they found a new homeland and settled in the fresh air of the mountains.